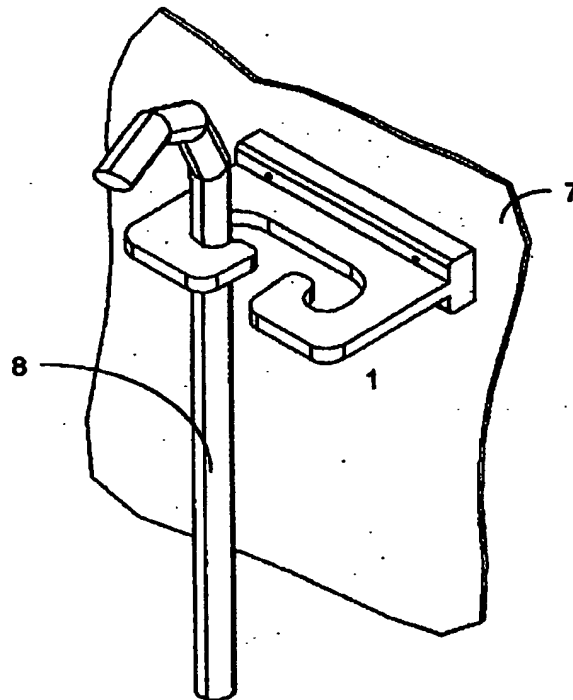


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(51) Int.Cl.⁶ A47G 25/12
(54) **PORTE-CANNES**
(54) **CANE HOLDER**



(57) Porte-cannes capable de soutenir simultanément une ou une série de cannes. Le porte-cannes comprend un seul ou une série d'éléments de soutien sur lesquels un canal de forme spéciale permet l'insertion, la retenue et la libération faciles de cannes de grandeurs et formes différentes, et un élément de fixation. L'élément de fixation peut être aussi mince que l'élément de soutien ou peut s'étendre dans les deux directions perpendiculaires à l'élément de soutien. La longueur de l'élément de fixation est proportionnelle, mais non pas limitée, au nombre d'éléments de soutien fixés ensemble.

(57) Herein disclosed is a cane holder capable of simultaneously supporting one or a series of canes. The cane holder comprises a single, or a series of, supporting pieces on which a specially designed channel allows easy insertion, retention and retrieval of canes of various sizes and shapes, and a mounting piece. The mounting piece can be as thin as the supporting piece or may extend independently in any two directions perpendicular to the supporting piece. The length of the mounting piece is proportional, but not limited to, the number of supporting pieces assembled together.

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CANE HOLDER

ABSTRACT of the DISCLOSURE

Herein disclosed is a cane holder capable of simultaneously supporting one or a series of canes. The cane holder comprises a single, or a series of, supporting pieces on which a specially designed channel allows easy insertion, retention and retrieval of canes of various sizes and shapes, and a mounting piece. The mounting piece can be as thin as the supporting piece or may extend independently in any two directions perpendicular to the supporting piece. The length of the mounting piece is proportional, but not limited to, the number of supporting pieces assembled together.

CANE HOLDER

The present invention relates to a cane holder capable of holding one, two or a series of canes, particularly adapted for use in residential houses, private and public buildings.

BACKGROUND of the INVENTION

It is common practice for people with a walking disability to use a walking cane to stabilize their displacements. When not in use, canes are typically lying against a wall or in a corner, stored in an elongated container, or in certain instances they are found on the floor. When leaning on a wall or in a corner, a cane can either fall down and become a hazard for tripping, or end up damaging the surface it is in contact with. Inserting a cane in an elongated container forces the user to perform movements that can be destabilizing and dangerous. Often, users do not put their canes in the same place each time, hence they may forget where they have put it, thus leading to a frustrating search.

SUMMARY of the INVENTION

It is therefore an essential object of the present invention to provide a cane holder especially adapted to the needs of people with a walking disability.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a cane holder which is constructed to simplify the manipulation of inserting and retrieving a walking cane from the cane holder.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a cane holder that can be assembled to support an unlimited number of canes.

A further object of this invention is to provide a cane holder that can be installed in private residences, public and private buildings and the like, such that the cane or canes are always located safely and securely in the same place, out of harm's way when not in use. The cane holder can be mounted on a wall, on furniture, on doors and so forth.

According to the present invention, there is provided a cane holder which comprises a single, or a series, of supporting pieces on which a specially designed channel allows easy insertion, retention, and retrieval of canes of various sizes and shapes, and a mounting piece. The mounting piece can be as thin as the supporting piece or may extend independently in any two directions perpendicular to the supporting piece. The length of the mounting piece is proportional but not limited to the number of supporting pieces assembled together. The mounting piece could also be formed of a number of independent units, of various shapes.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be in part apparent and in part pointed out hereinafter, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

It is to be understood that both the aforementioned general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory but are not restrictive of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION of the DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a cane holder for 2 canes in accordance with the present invention showing the cane holder, in which a cane has been inserted into the holder which has been mounted on a portion of a wall.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a cane holder for two canes.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a cane holder for one cane.

FIG. 4 is a top view of a cane holder for two canes, shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a side view of cane holder for two canes, shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is an example of an assembly containing a series of supporting pieces mounted side by side on a common mounting piece.

FIG. 7 is an example of a supporting piece with a single straight central channel.

FIG. 8 is an example of a supporting piece with the inlet channel on one side.

FIG. 9 is an example of straight retaining channels appended to the inlet channel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION of the INVENTION

Referring to FIG. 1 to 9, there is shown a cane holder 1. As is shown in FIG. 1, the cane holder 1 is mounted to, for example, a portion of a wall 7. With continuing reference to the drawings and in particular to FIG. 2, cane holder 1 comprises a single, or a series, of supporting pieces 2 on

which a specially designed channel 4 allows easy insertion, retrieval and retention of canes 8 of various sizes and shapes, and a mounting piece 3. The mounting piece 3 can be part of the supporting piece 2, as thin as the supporting module 2, or may extend independently in any two directions perpendicular to the supporting pieces 2 to form portion 3a and 3b. The length of the mounting piece 3 is proportional but not limited to the number of supporting pieces 2 assembled together. The channel 4 serves to guide the cane 8 as it is inserted into the supporting piece 2 through the central channel 4a towards retaining channel 4b or 4c. All exposed corners should be rounded so as to avoid snagging of clothing or possible injuries.

The form and shape of the supporting piece 2 and the mounting piece 3 can be either generally rectangular, curvilinear (not shown), or a combination of both without departing from the general principle of the invention.

The mounting piece 3 could also be sectioned in 2 or more sections (not shown) as long as a, or a series of, supporting pieces 2 can be securely fixed to the supporting surface 7.

The channel 4 comprises a central channel 4a at the end of which retaining channels 4b and 4c join to form the retaining sections. More than 2 retaining channels could also be appended to the same central channel 4a. The inlet of central channel 4a may be wider to facilitate the insertion of a cane. The inlet should preferably, but not necessarily, have rounded corners and be tapered. The central channel 4a and both retaining channels 4b and 4c should be wide enough, but not too wide, so as to allow free insertion and retrieval of the longitudinal part of a cane. The length, depth, angle, curvature and general shape of the

central channel 4a and retaining channels 4b and 4c may vary to allow easy insertion and securing of the cane but should not be unduly complicated as to render insertion and retrieval difficult to a user. The form and shape of channel 4 could consist of, but are not limited to, any combinations of FIG. 7 to FIG. 9; channel 4 may simply be a single straight channel as shown in FIG. 7, be on the side of the supporting piece 2 as shown in FIG. 8, consist of a straight or curvilinear central channel 4a to which single straight, compounded straight (not shown), or curvilinear retaining channels 4b and 4c could join as shown in FIG. 9 and FIG. 2., or be of a spiral shape (not shown). The angle at which the retaining channels 4b and 4c should preferably be perpendicular, but not necessarily to central channel 4a. The walls of channel 4 could also be rounded to facilitate insertion and retrieval.

As shown in FIG. 2, a means for attaching the cane holder 1 to a supporting surface 7 is provided. Means for attaching the holder could be screws, bolts and nuts (not shown), adhesive (not shown) and so forth. Screws, nuts and bolts should be selected to provide proper and long lasting mounting on the mounting surface 7. Fixing means, requiring holes 5, whether through holes 5 or surface holes, in the back, front or side of mounting piece 3, could be perforated on the top part of the mounting piece 3a, or at any other location judged appropriate (not shown).

When means for fixing the cane holder 1 is an adhesive, the adhesive may be provided as a film or double-sided adhesive tape, with or without foam between the adhering surfaces, and could be applied on the back or sides of the mounting piece 3. The protective cover, if in place, should be stripped off and the adhesive should be firmly pressed to

the appropriate section of mounting piece 3 and to mounting surface 7.

FIG. 6 shows an assembly of a series of supporting pieces 2 for two supporting pieces mounted on a common mounting piece 3 to form a combined supporting piece. The combined supporting pieces 2 could have initially been cut in such a fashion as to form a series cane holder, or could have been assembled by the joining of supporting pieces 2 side by side, with or without using glue, nails, dowels or any appropriate means. Fixing of the combined supporting pieces 2 to the mounting piece 3 could be accomplished by press fit, screws, staples, nails glue or any other appropriate process.

The supporting piece 2 and the mounting piece 3 may be made of any suitable material such as plastic, metal, wood, composite materials and optionally colored.

The cane holder 1, as shown in FIG. 2, FIG. 3 and FIG. 6 can be used with any commonly manufactured walking cane 8. The walking cane 8 could be made of wood, aluminum, or any other material. The cane holder accepts canes 8 of various diameters, not exceeding commonly available standards and shapes.

In use, the cane holder 1, is mounted on a supporting surface 7 by one or a combination of previously stated means. The cane holder 1 should be mounted on the mounting surface 7, through the mounting piece, with the supporting surface 2 projecting horizontally from the mounting surface 7. The cane holder 1 should be fixed at a height sufficient as to retain a cane in a mostly vertical position, or slightly slanted in either of the retaining channels 4a or 4b, yet not be so high as to interfere with the user's bare

hand or glove when the cane is inserted or retrieved. The pressure required for holding the cane 8 in place is a direct result of gravitational attraction.

After cane holder 1 is installed on supporting surface 7, the longitudinal part of cane 8, in an upright position, is inserted and guided through the central channel 4a towards the mounting surface 7, then bifurcated to either (when more than two) of the free retaining channels, respectively 4a and 4b, for retention. The tip of the cane should preferably be moving slightly above the ground or floor surface to facilitate insertion, then lowered for support. Retrieval consists of the reverse process.

The cane holder 1 is illustrated mounted on a wall section 7 but it will be apparent that it is adapted for mounting on a variety of other surfaces such as furniture and the like. It is also apparent that it is suited for use in residential houses, private and public buildings and the like.

As various changes could be made without departing from the scope of the invention and without sacrificing its chief advantages, it will be seen that the invention, in its broader aspects, is not limited to the specific details shown and described and that other advantageous results are attained.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A cane holder, for use in residential houses, private or public buildings which comprises:

- a single, or a series of, supporting pieces, of various sizes, shapes and forms;

- a single, or a series of, specially designed channels for insertion, retrieval and retention of canes of various sizes and shapes, comprising one or a combination of straight, tapered, curvilinear, spiral shaped, central channels and retaining channels;

- a, or a series of, mounting pieces.

2. Said channel wide enough, but not too wide, so as to allow free insertion and retrieval of the longitudinal part of a cane of commonly used standard size.

3. A cane holder as in claim 1 wherein said supporting piece for one, or a series of, supporting pieces are integral.

4. A cane holder as in claim 1 wherein said, or series of, supporting pieces and said, or series of, mounting pieces are integral.

5. A channel as in claim 3 with partially rounded walls.

6. A mounting piece as in claim 1 as thin as the supporting piece.

7. A mounting piece combined as in claim 1 extending independently in any two directions perpendicular to the supporting piece with a length proportional, but not limited to, the number of modules assembled together.

8. The mounting piece as claimed in 1 split in two or more sections.

10. The cane holder of claim 1 having a means for attaching the holder to a supporting surface.

11. A cane holder as claimed in 1 with rounded edges to avoid snagging of clothing and injuries.

Fig. 1

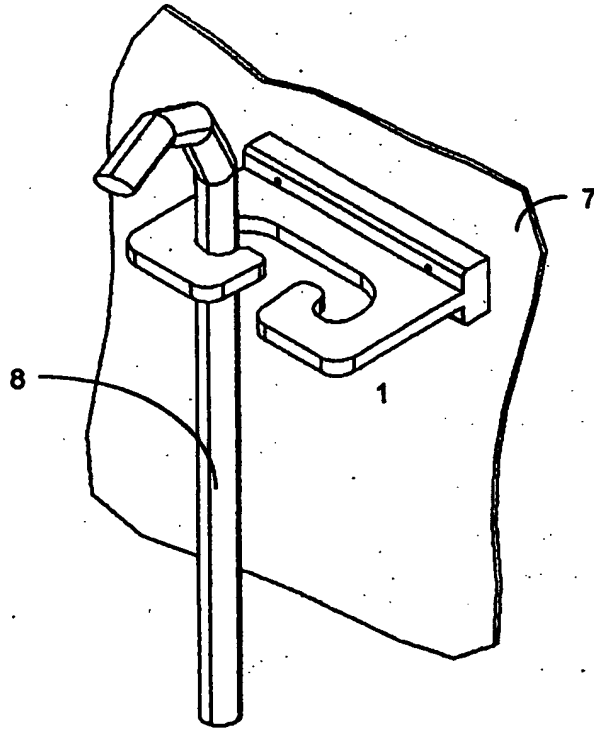


Fig. 2

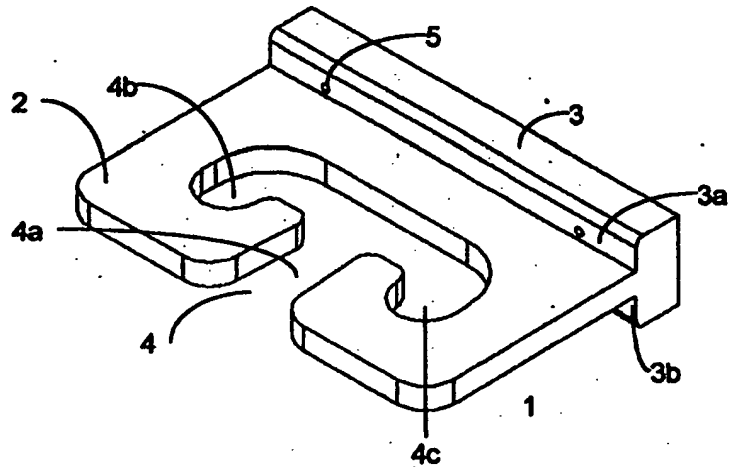


Fig. 3

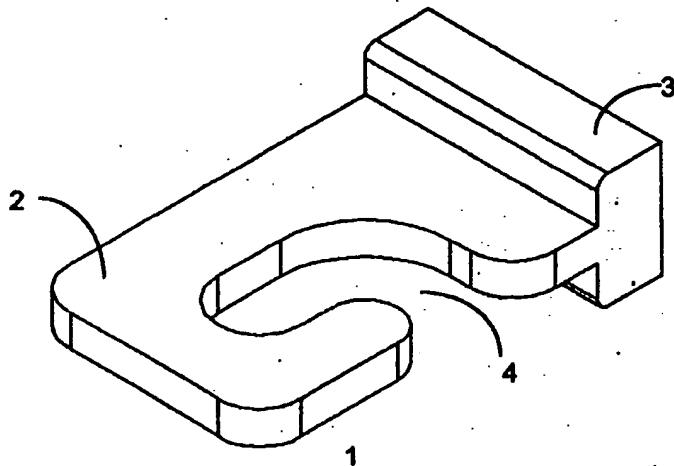


Fig. 4

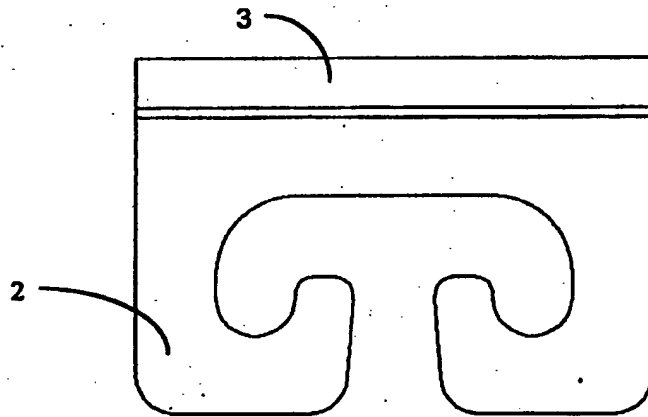


Fig. 5

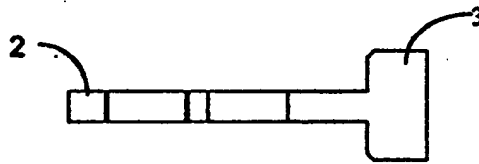


Fig. 6

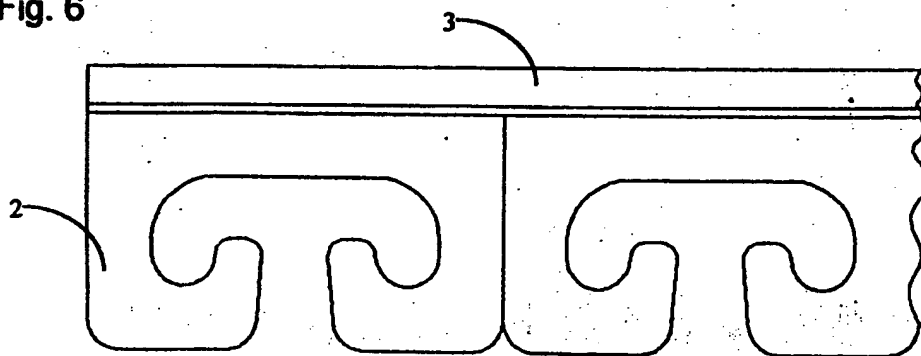


Fig. 7

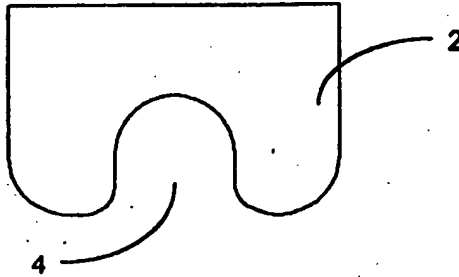


Fig. 8

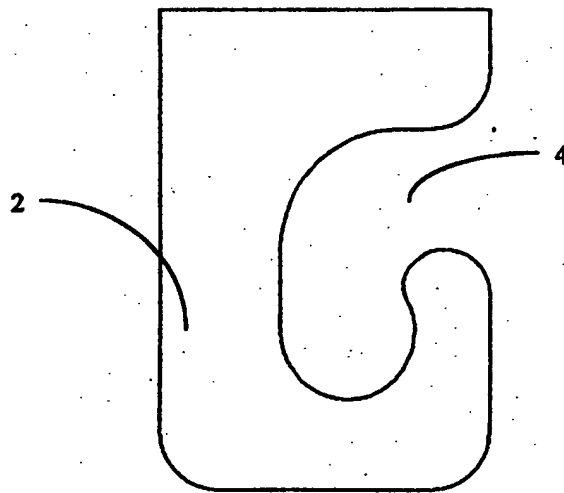


Fig. 9

